UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT EASTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI EASTERN DIVISION

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,)		
Plaintiff)		
Plaintiff,)		
V.)	No.	
EIGHTY-TWO THOUSAND, THREE)		
HUNDRED AND TWENTY-ONE DOLLARS IN U.S. CURRENCY)		
(\$82,321.00),)		
Defendant.)		

VERIFIED COMPLAINT OF FORFEITURE

COMES NOW, Plaintiff, United States of America, by and through its attorneys, Jeffrey B. Jensen, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Missouri, and Stephen Casey, Assistant United States Attorney, for said district, and for its Verified Complaint for Forfeiture states as follows:

Nature of the Action

- 1. This is a civil action *in rem* brought by the United States of America seeking forfeiture of all right, title, and interest in the above-captioned defendant property pursuant Title 21, United States Code, Section 881(a)(6) and Title 18, United States Code, Sections 981(a)(1)(A).
- 2. The defendant property was seized by law enforcement on or about July 17, 2018 and is described more fully as eighty-two thousand, three hundred and twenty-one dollars in U.S. currency (\$82,321.00)(the "defendant property").

Jurisdiction and Venue

3. This Court has jurisdiction over the subject matter pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331, 1345, and 1355 because this is a civil action arising under the laws of the United States, because

it is a proceeding of forfeiture, and because it has been brought by the United States.

- 4. This Court has jurisdiction over the parties pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1345 and 1355 because this is a proceeding for forfeiture, and because it has been brought by the United States.
- 5. Venue is proper in the Eastern District of Missouri pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1355 because an act giving rise to the forfeiture occurred in the Eastern District of Missouri.

Statutory Framework

- 6. Title 21, United States Code, Section 881(a)(6) authorizes the civil forfeiture of "all moneys, negotiable instruments, securities, or other things of value furnished or intended to be furnished by any person in exchange for a controlled substance or listed chemical in violation of this subchapter, all proceeds traceable to such an exchange, and all moneys, negotiable instruments, and securities used or intended to be used to facilitate any violation of this subchapter."
- 7. Title 18, United States Code, Section 1956(a)(1)(A)(i) criminalizes conducting a transaction, including transferring, delivering, or other disposition, knowing that such transaction represents the proceeds of some form of unlawful activity and that in fact involves the proceeds of a specific unlawful activity, including violations of the Controlled Substances Act, with the intent to promote the carrying on of the specified unlawful activity.
- 8. Title 18, United States Code, Section 1956(a)(1)(B) criminalizes conducting a transaction, including transfer, delivery, or other disposition, knowing that such transaction represents the proceeds of some form of unlawful activity and that in fact involves the proceeds of a specific unlawful activity, including violations of the Controlled Substances Act, knowing that the transaction is designed in whole or in part to conceal or disguise the nature, location, source, ownership, or control of the proceeds of specified unlawful activity.

9. Pursuant to Title 18, United States Code, Section 981(a)(1)(A), any property, real or personal, involved in a transaction or attempted transaction in violation of Section 1956 of Title 18, or any property traceable to such property, is subject to civil forfeiture.

Facts Giving Rise to the Forfeiture

- 10. Beginning in approximately early 2017, the Drug Enforcement Administration ("DEA") has been investigating Gerald Hunter ("Hunter") for his participation in a conspiracy to sell cocaine and fentanyl, and launder proceeds from the sale of said drugs.
- 11. Hunter was previously convicted of possession with intent to distribute a controlled substance in the United States District Court for the Central District of California in 2008 and sentenced to 200 months in the Bureau of Prisons.
- 12. As a result of the ongoing conspiracy, Hunter was indicted on May 3, 2017 in the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Missouri for violations of Title 21, United States Code, Sections 841 and 846. He was declared a fugitive on May 22, 2017.
- 13. On April 27, 2017, Hunter, along with other co-conspirators, transported fentanyl to St. Louis, Missouri. Investigators were able to apprehend the co-conspirators but Hunter fled on foot and was not located. While fleeing the scene, Hunter dropped two duffel bags. Visual observation of the bags revealed bulk substances wrapped in cellophane. Analysis of the contents of the bags conducted at the St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department Laboratory confirmed the substances contained a detectable amount of fentanyl.
- 14. The substances recovered from April 27, 2017 were a distributable amount of fentanyl.
- 15. The DEA investigation further revealed that Temne Ada Hardaway ("Hardaway"), a paramour of Hunter's, participated in Hunter's drug trafficking organization.

- 16. On May 23, 2018, Hardaway told a confidential source ("CS") that she could obtain fentanyl and cocaine for the CS's "buyers." Hardaway then brokered a deal for \$44,000.00 per kilogram of fentanyl with the CS.
- 17. Through a series of interviews, DEA learned that Hardaway laundered Hunter's drug proceeds through real estate transactions. Hardaway utilized drug proceeds generated from Hunter's drug trafficking organization to purchase real estate. Hardaway placed the real estate in her name, Hardaway, and in the name of her business, Second Chance Financing.
- 18. Hardaway also laundered drug proceeds through bank transactions. Hardaway utilized multiple people, including her grandmother, Louise Harris and her mother, Michelle Harris, to deposit drug proceeds into accounts at several banks and credit unions. The deposits were under \$10,000.00 each time in order to avoid reporting requirements and detection by federal authorities. The depositors then withdrew the deposited cash via cashier's checks and/or wire transfers. These deposits were being made in escrow for a house purchased by Hardaway, along with the involvement of Hunter and other parties, located in Los Angeles, CA. The escrow deposits were funded almost entirely by multiple cash deposits made on the same day or in close proximity to the respective escrow deposits.
- 19. On July 12, 2018 in a Superseding Indictment, Hunter and Hardaway were charged in the Eastern District of Missouri for violations of Title 18, United States Code, 1956 and Title 21, United States Code, Section 841 and 846.
- 20. On July 16, 2018, federal search warrants were issued in the Central District of California for a variety of locations including the residence of Hardaway.
- 21. On July 17, 2018 investigators executed the federal search warrant at the residence of Hardaway.

22. During the search, investigators located and seized the defendant property in Hardaway's bedroom. Also located and seized in the same room were nine cellular telephones and photographs of Hunter.

23. Investigators interviewed Hardaway during the search. When asked to unlock electronic devices located in her residence, she stated, "I don't want to incriminate myself." She also said she knows Hunter is a fugitive and she repeatedly refused to aid in his location by investigators.

24. Investigators interviewed Louise Harris, Hardaway's grandmother who lives in the same duplex complex as Hardaway. Harris said that she knew who Hunter was and she had seen him occasionally at Hardaway's residence. Harris also stated that she had made deposits and obtained cashier's checks for Hardaway at different banks. When asked why she went to two different banks on February 22, 2017 to purchase two \$9,500.00 cashier's checks, Harris responded that the bank told her she would have to fill out a report for the government if she bought both at the same bank because it was over \$10,000.00.

25. DEA received records from the Internal Revenue Service on the earnings of Hardaway. She earned \$13,500.00 in both 2014 and 2015. Total income for 2016 was \$24,519.00 and 2017 was \$28,380.00. Hardaway's company, Second Chance Financing, showed no tax return filed.

26. DEA also received records from the Internal Revenue Service for Harris. The total "adjusted gross income" for 2016 was \$43,277.00. There was no income tax return on record for 2017.

<u>COUNT ONE – FORFEITURE</u> 21 U.S.C. § 881(a)(6)

27. The United States incorporates by reference the allegations set forth in Paragraphs

1 to 26 above as if fully set forth herein.

- 28. The defendant property is proceeds or involved in an unlawful activity involving controlled substances.
- 29. Based on the foregoing, the defendant property is subject to forfeiture pursuant to Title 21, United States Code, Section 881(a)(6) as money furnished or intended to be furnished in exchange for a controlled substance, as proceeds traceable to such an exchange, and as money to be used to facilitate a violation of the Controlled Substances Act.

<u>COUNT TWO – FORFEITURE</u> 18 U.S.C. § 981(a)(1)(A)

- 30. The United States incorporates by reference the allegations set forth in Paragraphs 1 to 26 above as if fully set forth herein.
- 31. The defendant property is proceeds or traceable to an unlawful activity involving controlled substances with the intent to promote the carrying of, and to conceal or disguise the nature, location, source, ownership or control of, a specified unlawful activity.
- 32. Based on the foregoing, the defendant property is subject to forfeiture, pursuant to Title 18, United Stated Code, Section 981(a)(1)(A) as property involved in a transaction or attempted transaction in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1956, or as property traceable to such property.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, the United States of America prays that a Warrant for Arrest be issued for the defendant property and the defendant property be condemned and forfeited to the United States of America, in accordance with the provisions of law; and that the United States of America be awarded its costs in this action, and for such other relief as provided by law and the nature of the case may require.

Respectfully submitted,

JEFFREY B. JENSEN United States Attorney

/s/ Stephen Casey STEPHEN CASEY, #58879MO Assistant United States Attorney 111 South Tenth Street, 20th Floor St. Louis, Missouri 63102 SJS 44 (Rev. 11/04)

Case: 4:19-cv-00888 Def #: 1 d O VIER SHEET Page: 1 of 2 PageID #: 8

The JS 44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replace nor supplement the filing and service of pleadings or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. (SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON THE REVERSE OF THE FORM.)

I. (a) PLAINTIFFS	,	DEFENDANTS		
	of First Listed Plaintiff KCEPT IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES) Address, and Telephone Number)	NOTE: IN LAN	of First Listed Defendant (IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES OF D CONDEMNATION CASES, US INVOLVED.	
II. BASIS OF JURISD	ICTION (Place an "X" in One Box Only)	II. CITIZENSHIP OF P	PRINCIPAL PARTIES	(Place an "X" in One Box for Plaintiff
☐ 1 U.S. Government Plaintiff	☐ 3 Federal Question (U.S. Government Not a Party)		TF DEF 1 □ 1 Incorporated or Pr of Business In Thi	
☐ 2 U.S. Government Defendant	☐ 4 Diversity (Indicate Citizenship of Parties in Item III)	Citizen of Another State	1 2	
IV. NATURE OF SUIT	(Place an "Y" in One Roy Only)	Citizen or Subject of a Foreign Country	J 3 G 3 Foreign Nation	□ 6 □ 6
CONTRACT	TORTS	FORFEITURE/PENALTY	BANKRUPTCY	OTHER STATUTES
 □ 110 Insurance □ 120 Marine □ 130 Miller Act □ 140 Negotiable Instrument □ 150 Recovery of Overpayment & Enforcement of Judgment □ 151 Medicare Act □ 152 Recovery of Defaulted Student Loans (Excl. Veterans) □ 153 Recovery of Overpayment of Veteran's Benefits □ 160 Stockholders' Suits □ 190 Other Contract □ 195 Contract Product Liability □ 196 Franchise REAL PROPERTY □ 210 Land Condemnation □ 220 Foreclosure □ 230 Rent Lease & Ejectment □ 245 Tort Product Liability □ 290 All Other Real Property 	PERSONAL INJURY □ 310 Airplane □ 315 Airplane Product Liability □ 320 Assault, Libel & Slander □ 330 Federal Employers' Liability □ 340 Marine □ 345 Marine Product Liability □ 345 Marine Product Liability □ 355 Motor Vehicle □ 700 Other Personal □ 355 Motor Vehicle □ 100 Other Personal Injury CIVIL RIGHTS □ 441 Voting □ 442 Employment □ 443 Housing/ Accommodations □ 444 Welfare □ 445 Amer. w/Disabilities - Employment □ 446 Amer. w/Disabilities - Other □ 440 Other Civil Rights □ 362 Personal Injury - Med. Malpractice Med. Malpractice 1365 Personal Injury - PERSONAL INJURY Product Liability □ 368 Asbestos Personal Injury PERSONAL PROPERT □ 370 Other Praud □ 370 Other Personal □ 370 Other Personal □ 380 Other Personal □ Property Damage Product Liability □ 510 Motions to Vacate Sentence Habeas Corpus: □ 530 General □ 535 Death Penalty □ 550 Civil Rights □ 555 Prison Condition	☐ 690 Other LABOR ☐ 710 Fair Labor Standards Act ☐ 720 Labor/Mgmt. Relations ☐ 730 Labor/Mgmt.Reporting & Disclosure Act ☐ 740 Railway Labor Act ☐ 790 Other Labor Litigation ☐ 791 Empl. Ret. Inc. Security Act	☐ 422 Appeal 28 USC 158 ☐ 423 Withdrawal	□ 400 State Reapportionment □ 410 Antitrust □ 430 Banks and Banking □ 450 Commerce □ 460 Deportation □ 470 Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations □ 480 Consumer Credit □ 490 Cable/Sat TV □ 810 Selective Service □ 850 Securities/Commodities/ Exchange □ 875 Customer Challenge 12 USC 3410 □ 890 Other Statutory Actions □ 891 Agricultural Acts □ 892 Economic Stabilization Act □ 893 Environmental Matters □ 894 Energy Allocation Act □ 895 Freedom of Information Act □ 900Appeal of Fee Determination Under Equal Access to Justice □ 950 Constitutionality of State Statutes
□1 Original □2 R	an "X" in One Box Only) emoved from	Reinstated or Reopened anoth (speci		
VI. CAUSE OF ACTIO	•	Thing (Do not the jurisdiction	ar statutes unless diversity).	
VII. REQUESTED IN COMPLAINT:	CHECK IF THIS IS A CLASS ACTION UNDER F.R.C.P. 23	DEMAND \$	CHECK YES only JURY DEMAND:	if demanded in complaint:
VIII. RELATED CASI IF ANY	E(S) (See instructions): JUDGE		DOCKET NUMBER	
DATE	SIGNATURE OF ATT	ORNEY OF RECORD		
FOR OFFICE USE ONLY RECEIPT # A	MOUNT APPLYING IFP	JUDGE	MAG. JUI)GE
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INSTRUCTIONS FOR ATTORNEYS COMPLETING CIVIL COVER SHEET FORM JS 44

Authority For Civil Cover Sheet

The JS 44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replaces nor supplements the filings and service of pleading or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. Consequently, a civil cover sheet is submitted to the Clerk of Court for each civil complaint filed. The attorney filing a case should complete the form as follows:

- I. (a) Plaintiffs-Defendants. Enter names (last, first, middle initial) of plaintiff and defendant. If the plaintiff or defendant is a government agency, use only the full name or standard abbreviations. If the plaintiff or defendant is an official within a government agency, identify first the agency and then the official, giving both name and title.
- (b) County of Residence. For each civil case filed, except U.S. plaintiff cases, enter the name of the county where the first listed plaintiff resides at the time of filing. In U.S. plaintiff cases, enter the name of the county in which the first listed defendant resides at the time of filing. (NOTE: In land condemnation cases, the county of residence of the "defendant" is the location of the tract of land involved.)
- (c) Attorneys. Enter the firm name, address, telephone number, and attorney of record. If there are several attorneys, list them on an attachment, noting in this section "(see attachment)".
- **II. Jurisdiction**. The basis of jurisdiction is set forth under Rule 8(a), F.R.C.P., which requires that jurisdictions be shown in pleadings. Place an "X" in one of the boxes. If there is more than one basis of jurisdiction, precedence is given in the order shown below.

United States plaintiff. (1) Jurisdiction based on 28 U.S.C. 1345 and 1348. Suits by agencies and officers of the United States are included here.

United States defendant. (2) When the plaintiff is suing the United States, its officers or agencies, place an "X" in this box.

Federal question. (3) This refers to suits under 28 U.S.C. 1331, where jurisdiction arises under the Constitution of the United States, an amendment to the Constitution, an act of Congress or a treaty of the United States. In cases where the U.S. is a party, the U.S. plaintiff or defendant code takes precedence, and box 1 or 2 should be marked.

Diversity of citizenship. (4) This refers to suits under 28 U.S.C. 1332, where parties are citizens of different states. When Box 4 is checked, the citizenship of the different parties must be checked. (See Section III below; federal question actions take precedence over diversity cases.)

- III. Residence (citizenship) of Principal Parties. This section of the JS 44 is to be completed if diversity of citizenship was indicated above. Mark this section for each principal party.
- IV. Nature of Suit. Place an "X" in the appropriate box. If the nature of suit cannot be determined, be sure the cause of action, in Section VI below, is sufficient to enable the deputy clerk or the statistical clerks in the Administrative Office to determine the nature of suit. If the cause fits more than one nature of suit, select the most definitive.
- V. Origin. Place an "X" in one of the seven boxes.

Original Proceedings. (1) Cases which originate in the United States district courts.

Removed from State Court. (2) Proceedings initiated in state courts may be removed to the district courts under Title 28 U.S.C., Section 1441. When the petition for removal is granted, check this box.

Remanded from Appellate Court. (3) Check this box for cases remanded to the district court for further action. Use the date of remand as the filing date.

Reinstated or Reopened. (4) Check this box for cases reinstated or reopened in the district court. Use the reopening date as the filing date.

Transferred from Another District. (5) For cases transferred under Title 28 U.S.C. Section 1404(a). Do not use this for within district transfers or multidistrict litigation transfers.

Multidistrict Litigation. (6) Check this box when a multidistrict case is transferred into the district under authority of Title 28 U.S.C. Section 1407. When this box is checked, do not check (5) above.

Appeal to District Judge from Magistrate Judgment. (7) Check this box for an appeal from a magistrate judge's decision.

- VI. Cause of Action. Report the civil statute directly related to the cause of action and give a brief description of the cause. **Do not cite jurisdictional statutes unless diversity**. Example: U.S. Civil Statute: 47 USC 553
 Brief Description: Unauthorized reception of cable service
- VII. Requested in Complaint. Class Action. Place an "X" in this box if you are filing a class action under Rule 23, F.R.Cv.P.

Demand. In this space enter the dollar amount (in thousands of dollars) being demanded or indicate other demand such as a preliminary injunction.

Jury Demand. Check the appropriate box to indicate whether or not a jury is being demanded.

VIII. Related Cases. This section of the JS 44 is used to reference related pending cases if any. If there are related pending cases, insert the docket numbers and the corresponding judge names for such cases.

Date and Attorney Signature. Date and sign the civil cover sheet.

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT EASTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

,) plaintiff,) v.) Case No.) defendant.)					
ORIGINAL FILING FORM					
THIS FORM MUST BE COMPLETED AND VERIFIED BY THE FILING PARTY WHEN INITIATING A NEW CASE.					
THIS CAUSE, OR A SUBSTANTIALLY EQUIVALENT COMPLAINT, WAS					
PREVIOUSLY FILED IN THIS COURT AS CASE NUMBER					
AND ASSIGNED TO THE HONORABLE JUDGE					
NEITHER THIS CAUSE, NOR A SUBSTANTIALLY EQUIVALENT COMPLAINT,					
PREVIOUSLY HAS BEEN FILED IN THIS COURT, AND THEREFORE MAY BE					
OPENED AS AN ORIGINAL PROCEEDING.					
The undersigned affirms that the information provided above is true and correct.					
Date: Signature of Filing Party					

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT EASTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI EASTERN DIVISION

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,)
Plaintiff,)
v.) No.
EIGHTY-TWO THOUSAND, THREE HUNDRED AND TWENTY-ONE)))
DOLLARS IN U.S. CURRENCY (\$82,321.00),)
(\$02,321.00),	<i>)</i>)
Defendant.)

WARRANT FOR ARREST OF PROPERTY

TO: THE UNITED STATES MARSHAL AND/OR ANY OTHER DULY AUTHORIZED LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

Whereas, on April 8, 2019, the United States of America filed a Verified Complaint for Civil Forfeiture in the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Missouri, against the above-named defendant property, alleging that said property is subject to seizure and civil forfeiture to the United States for the reasons mentioned in the complaint; and

WHEREAS, the defendant property is currently in the possession, custody, or control of the United States; and

WHEREAS, in these circumstances, Supplemental Rule G(3)(b)(i) directs the Clerk of the Court to issue an arrest warrant in rem for the arrest of the defendant property; and

WHEREAS, Supplemental Rule G(3)(c) provides that the warrant of arrest in rem must be delivered to a person or organization authorized to execute it;

NOW THEREFORE, you are hereby commanded to arrest the above-named defendant property by serving a copy of this warrant on the custodian in whose possession, custody, or

Case: 4:19-cv-00888 Doc. #: 1-3 Filed: 04/08/19 Page: 2 of 2 PageID #: 12

control the property is presently found, and to use whatever means may be appropriate to protect and maintain it in your custody until further order of this Court,

YOU ARE FURTHER COMMANDED, promptly after execution of this process, to file the same in this Court with your return thereon, identifying the individuals upon whom copies were served and the manner employed.

GREGORY J. LINHARES, CLERK United States District Court

By:			
-	Deputy Clerk		
Date	:		